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FILE: JHCF
Critical

EXPLANATION: STUDENT ALLERGY PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

House Bill 1188 (2012), § 167.635, RSMo., allows school districts to maintain a supply of asthma-related rescue medications that can be administered by the school nurse or another employee trained and supervised by the nurse when the nurse or trained employee believes, based on training in recognizing acute asthma episodes, that a student is having a life-threatening asthma episode.

The statute specifies that:

> **2. To obtain asthma rescue medications for a school district, a prescription written by a licensed physician, a physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner is required. For such prescriptions, the school district shall be designated as the patient, the nurse's name shall be required, and the prescription shall be filled at a licensed pharmacy.**

According to the statute, qualified employees will be held harmless and immune from civil liability for administering asthma-related rescue medications in good faith and according to standard medical practice.

MSBA has added the appropriate language to this policy. Districts that do not maintain asthma-related rescue inhalers or prefilled epinephrine auto syringes should remove the relevant language.

MSBA recommends that copies of this document be routed to the following areas because the content is of particular importance to them. The titles on this list may not match those used by the district. Please forward copies to the district equivalent of the title indicated.

	Board Secretary		Business Office	X	Coaches/Sponsors
	Facility Maintenance		Food Service		Gifted
	Human Resources	X	Principals		Library/Media Center
X	Health Services		Counselor		Special Education
	Transportation		Public Info/Communications		Technology

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STUDENT ALLERGY PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The purpose of this policy is to create an organized system for preventing and responding to allergic reactions. This policy is not a guarantee of an allergen-free environment; instead, it is designed to increase awareness, provide education and training, reduce the chance of exposure and outline responses to allergic reactions. The best form of prevention for life-threatening allergies is avoidance of the allergen.

Research shows that allergies can negatively impact student achievement by affecting concentration, auditory processing and attendance. Further, healthy students are better learners. In addition to posing health risks, allergies can be potentially deadly for some individuals.

This policy applies to district facilities to which students have access and includes transportation provided by the district. The Board instructs the superintendent or designee to develop procedures to implement this policy.

Identification

Each school will attempt to identify students with life-threatening allergies, including food allergies. An allergic reaction is an immune system response to a substance that itself is not harmful but that the body interprets as being harmful. Allergic reactions can range from mild to severe and can even be life threatening. At enrollment, the person enrolling the student will be asked to provide information on any allergies the student may have.

~~Prevention~~Students with Known Allergies

Students with allergies that rise to the level of a disability as defined by law will be accommodated in accordance with district policies and procedures pertaining to the identification and accommodation of students with disabilities. An individualized health plan (IHP), including an emergency action plan (EAP), may be developed for students with allergies that do not rise to the level of a disability.

All staff members are required to follow any Section 504 plan or IHP/EAP developed for a student by the district. Staff members who do not follow an existing Section 504 plan or IHP/EAP will be disciplined, and such discipline may include termination.

Prevention

Staff members shall not use air fresheners, oils, candles or other such items intended to add fragrance in any district facilities. This provision will not be construed to prohibit the use of personal care

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items that contain added fragrance, but the principal may require staff members to refrain from the use of personal care items with added fragrance under particular circumstances.

Staff members are prohibited from using cleaning materials, disinfectants, pesticides or other chemicals except those provided by the district or pre-approved.

The district will not serve any processed foods, including foods sold in vending machines, that are not labeled with a complete list of ingredients. Vended items must include a list of ingredients on the individual package. The food service director will create an ingredient list for all foods provided by the district as part of the district's nutrition program, including food provided during the school day and in before- and after-school programs. This list will be available upon request.

Prepackaged items used in concessions, fundraisers and classroom activities must include a list of ingredients on the package. If the package does not contain a list of ingredients, the list of ingredients must be available at the location where the package is sold or provided.

Education and Training

All staff members will be regularly trained on the causes and symptoms of and responses to allergic reactions. Training will include instruction on the use of prefilled epinephrine ~~premeasured auto-injection devices~~ syringes. Designated employees will be trained in the administration of asthma-related rescue medications.

In accordance with law, qualified employees will be held harmless and immune from civil liability for administering epinephrine or asthma-related rescue medications in good faith and according to standard medical practices. A qualified employee is one who has been trained to administer medication, including epinephrine, in accordance with standard medical practice.

Age-appropriate education on allergies and allergic reactions will be provided to students as such education aligns with state Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs) for health education. Education will include potential causes, signs and symptoms of allergic reactions; information on avoiding allergens; and simple steps students can take to keep classmates safe.

Confidentiality

Information about individual students with allergies will be provided to all staff members and others who need to know the information to provide a safe learning environment for the student. Information about individual students with allergies will not be shared with students and others who do not have a legitimate educational interest in the information unless authorized by the parent/guardian or as otherwise permitted by law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

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Response

Response to an allergic reaction shall be in accordance with established procedures, including application of the student's Section 504 plan or IHP/EAP. Information about known allergies will be shared in accordance with FERPA. Each building will maintain an adequate supply of prefilled epinephrine ~~premeasured~~ auto~~-injection devices~~ syringes and asthma-related rescue medications to be administered in accordance with Board policy. Parents of students with life-threatening allergies or asthma, however, are encouraged to supply the school with prefilled epinephrine ~~premeasured~~ auto~~-injection devices~~ syringes and asthma-related rescue medications to be administered in accordance with Board policy.

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Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.

Adopted: 04/11/2011

Revised:

Cross Refs: AC, Prohibition against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation
ADF, District Wellness Program
EBBA, Illness and Injury Response and Prevention
EF, Food Services Management
EFB, Free and Reduced-Cost Food Services
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities
IGD, District-Sponsored Extracurricular Activities and Groups
IICA, Field Trips and Excursions

Legal Refs: §§ 167.208, .635, RSMo.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 - 1417
34 C.F.R. Part 300
The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794
34 C.F.R. Part 104
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 - 12213
National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 - 1769~~h~~
Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1771 - 1785
7 C.F.R. Parts 210, 220, 227

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